Memorandum Submitted on Behalf of Cotton Growers of Andhra Pradesh

429. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an all party delegation from Andhra Pradesh met the Prime Minister and submitted a memorandum to redress the grievances of cotton growers of Guntur and Prakasum districts;

(b) if so, what are the details of the memorandum; and

(c) what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Their main demands were that the Government should immediately rescind its decision to import cotton, that CCI should intervene and buy cotton from the cotton growers of A. P. and that the Government should immediately constitute a Statutory Board on the lines of Tobacco Board to regulate the production and marketing of cotton.

(c) In the context of Bilateral Trade Agreements, the Government has authorised Cotton Corporation of India to meet the requirements of cotton of some of our neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka upto a limit of 30,000 bales. The Corporation has offered to purchase MCU-5 variety on Fair Average Quality (FAQ parameters) at Rs. 1300 per quintal and FAQ JKHY at Rs. 1200 per quintal.

In view of the hardships being faced by the handloom weavers in the country and particularly in Andhra Pradesh because of high cotton prices resulting in high hank yarn prices, Government had taken a decision to allow import upto 2 lakh bales of cotton exclusively for conversion into hank yarn. Though no cotton has actually been imported in this Scheme, due to changes in the domestic and international price situation, this decision had a sobering effect on the cotton and consequently on prices of hank yarn also.

Purchase of Cotton by National Textile Corporation

430. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of cotton purchased by National Textiles Corporation during the last three years; and

(b) what is the amount of it that was supplied by Cotton Corporation of India and private agencies separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The total quantity of cotton purchased by National Textile Corporation during 1988-89 to 1990-91 is given below:

Year	Number of bales purchased
1988-89	10,72,374
1989-90	12,36,672
1990-91	9,45,752

(b) The amount of cotton purchased from Cotton Corporation of India and Private Agencies during the year 1988-89 to 1990-91 is given below:

Year	Number of bales	
	CCI	Private Agencies
1988-89	2,68,405	1,64,959
1989-90	4,10,228	98,803
1990-91	3,72,327	76,404

Closure of Tripura Jute Mills Limited

431. SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tripura Jute Mills Limited is facing closure; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to keep the mills in the running conditions?